



# ***Daily Report***

## **Sub-Saharan Africa**

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FBIS-AFR-96-088

Monday

6 May 1996

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May 1996

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# Daily Report

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## Burundi

### Burundi: Armed Attackers Raid Bujumbura Hospital

EA0405151796 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in French 1100 GMT 4 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Northwestern Bujumbura experienced a nightmarish event last night: Gunfire was heard in Vugizo, Mutanga, Gihosha and particularly at the Kamenge University Hospital, where a watchman was killed while four people were injured, including a child who was seriously injured.

It started with a grenade explosion at the university hospital at 0130. The sick, and those looking after them, found themselves invaded by at least 200 armed people who attacked the pediatrics area and surgery, while another group attacked the dining hall after killing the watchman.

They then attacked those who were defenseless: the four injured people are two women — a patient and a carer — a child patient and a man who was hospitalized with a bullet wound in his right leg. It was the same leg that was injured again.

Early in the morning, the urban population went to the King Khaled Hospital to show sympathy to the patients who were victims of the barbaric acts.

When we visited the area, we interviewed Public Health Minister Charles Batungwanayo, who said that the attack was immoral, since a sick person should not be the target of violence.

[Begin Batungwanayo recording] I found out that it was barbaric in the extreme. Generally, one never attacks....[pauses], it has never been seen in the past cases where hospitals were attacked. [end recording] [passage omitted]

## Cameroon

### Cameroon: Cameroon Denies Nigerian Allegations of Bakassi Attacks

AB0305203196 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 3 May 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The row between Nigeria and Cameroon over the disputed Bakassi Peninsula has become quite heated in the past 10 days or so, with Nigeria accusing the Cameroonian military of aggressive acts in the border region. They accuse the Cameroonians of launching attacks on Nigerian positions and of killing and injuring Nigerian soldiers. The whole thing is supposed to be the subject of a case

before the International Court of Justice. That hasn't stopped the flare-up, and now, the talk from the Nigerian Government is getting even tougher as Sola Odunfa reports from Lagos.

[Begin Odunfa recording] Nigerian military authorities today in Lagos issued their strongest criticism yet of Cameroon's military action on the Bakassi Peninsula, describing it as criminal. The statement said that Cameroon had continued the heavy artillery bombardment of Nigerian positions, which it started last Friday [26 April], and now Nigeria will take all necessary action to protect its territory. The statement came on the heels of media reports here of fears of the total collapse of the UN-sponsored cease-fire in the peninsula. Unconfirmed reports in the Nigerian newspapers today alleged French military collaboration with the Cameroonians. The Defense Headquarters said that while Nigeria had done all that was humanly possible to maintain the cease-fire, Cameroon had taken advantage of the cease-fire to rearm and was now putting its fresh supplies into use.

Confirmation of the new hostilities in the peninsula has come from the southeastern city of Calabar, which is not far from the innermost parts of the peninsula. Residents there clearly heard echoes of the explosions from artillery shells on Wednesday [1 May] night and all through yesterday. Many houses in the city shook to the tremors from the explosions. The Defense Headquarters spokesman in Lagos said that the echoes in Calabar were clear proof that it was the Cameroonians who were shelling Nigerian positions. He said that if the shells were from Nigerian guns, they would land far away on Cameroonian territory and would not be audible in Calabar. [end recording]

[Announcer] Well, the Cameroonians have so far been very muted in their response to the persistent Nigerian accusations that their troops were committing acts of aggression in the Bakassi Peninsula, but now William Wallis has got in touch with Cameroon's Information Minister [title as heard] Augustin Kontchou in Yaounde and asked him what he made of Nigeria's claims.

[Begin recording] [Kontchou] The truth is that since, let's say, 10 days now, Nigerian Army is attacking Cameroonian forces on a daily basis, and we are astonished that every time they attack us, they are the first to go on media making noise all around the world, accusing Cameroon, but since the beginning of this conflict, we have never attacked Nigerian forces, and what is true is that since some days, (their) attacks are very frequent, but since you know that our elements are on the field — on Cameroonian territory — to defend the country, they cannot just be there waiting to receive

bullets. So, from time to time, they have to respond, and this is what is going on in Bakassi now.

[Wallis] Have many troops been dying in these clashes?

[Kontchou] Yes. You know that when you have guns firing on the field, you may imagine what happens at that moment.

[Wallis] When the International Court of Justice met on this recently, they ruled that both sides should withdraw to the positions they were in before fighting broke out in February. Has this happened?

[Kontchou] What is true once more is that Nigerians have ignored the decision and instructions of the International Court of Justice and even the recommendations of the Security Council of the United Nations, and not only they have not (?retreated) their troops to the positions of 3 February, but they have been trying every day to gain more territory in Bakassi....

[Wallis, interrupting] But might this not be a reason why Cameroon was attacking the Nigerians?

[Kontchou] Cameroon has not attacked anybody.

[Wallis] Now the Cameroonian charge d'affaires in Nigeria has been meeting with the Nigerian authorities in Abuja today. Have you heard of any progress with these negotiations?

[Kontchou] [Words indistinct] negotiations about what? You know that the International Court of Justice has decided that the two armies should retreat to the positions of 3 February. You know that the Security Council or the United Nations has decided given recommendations to the two states to cease aggression, so we don't know what we are going to negotiate now.

[Wallis] So, there will be no further diplomatic efforts?

[Kontchou] We think that the solutions exist. They have been indicated by competent international bodies, and we Cameroonians we follow international laws and international decisions. We should be happy to see Nigerians doing the same thing. [end recording]

#### **Cameroon: Minister Claims Nigeria Initiating Attacks in Bakassi**

*LD0305205096 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 3 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] For many days now Nigeria has been accusing Cameroon of attacking its positions in the Bakassi peninsula, in the Gulf of Guinea. Nigeria said for the first time today that it will take all the necessary measures to repel the attacks. Not a word has come from Cameroon on this affair so far, but Cameroonian Information Minister Augustin Kontchou

gave an interview to RFI's Christophe Boissbouvier this evening.

[Begin recording] [Kontchou] The truth is that for two weeks now the Nigerians have been attacking us almost daily. The forces in (Guidigui) and (Benkoro) decided in the past few days to try and conquer (Imwamba) on the (Rio del Rey). The Cameroonian troops there have received orders not to let them through. I think the Nigerians are upset because they cannot make a breakthrough. They are creating a noise with the international media and trying to convince everyone that Cameroon is the attacker, whereas it is Cameroon that is being attacked.

[Boissbouvier] Are there casualties?

[Kontchou] I cannot give you exact figures for the time being, but it is obvious that there are casualties since they are using heavy weapons.

[Boissbouvier] Do you have any hope in diplomatic action?

[Kontchou] Both the UN and the International Court of Justice are active players in this affair. As usual we are going to appeal to these institutions to make sure there is a positive outcome to the affair. [end recording]

### **Central African Republic**

#### **CAR: Unpaid Pensioners Clash With Security Forces**

*AB0305165096 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 3 May 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] People of the Central African Republic [CAR] are rapidly running out of patience with the government of President Patasse. Many of them haven't been paid their wages and salaries for months. Last month, members of the Army mutinied in protest. A number of people were killed and injured in the days of unrest in the capital, Bangui. Now pensioners have apparently taken a leaf out of the soldiers' book and there have been clashes. On the line, Mary Harper asked our Bangui correspondent, Joseph Benamsse, what had happened:

[Begin recording] [Benamsse] There were clashes between the pensioners and the security forces just in front of the office of the prime minister this morning and the clashes lasted, I think, 25 minutes, according to what people told me.

[Harper] Now, why would security forces clash with, of all people, pensioners?

[Bonamsse] The pensioners wanted to make their way up to the office of the prime minister because they wanted the prime minister to pay their money, but security forces prevented them from going up the office of the prime minister. This is why there had been these clashes.

[Harper] Now, what happened during these clashes? Were any of these pensioners hurt?

[Bonamsse] Oh yes, when I went on the scene myself, somebody who had been around by the time there were the clashes told me that at least 10 people were wounded and when I went around, I saw two of the policemen who were there during the clashes and they were slightly wounded.

[Harper] Did the police actually open fire on the pensioners?

[Bonamsse] Yes, they did fire teargas just to disperse the pensioners who were throwing stones at the office of the prime minister and they were also stoning the cars of the prime minister. This is why the security forces fired teargas to disperse them.

[Harper] But aren't pensioners a little bit old to be throwing stones at the prime minister's office?

[Bonamsse] You can say that the pensioners are too old to throw stones at the prime minister's office, but what you should know is that there are some pensioners who are less than 50 years old, so these ones are strong enough to throw stones at the prime minister's office.

[Harper] Has the government said anything about these pensioners? Has it said it's going to give them their money?

[Bonamsse] Nothing has so far been said about the situation that prevailed today, but all I can tell you is that pensioners have not got their money for a year and they want the government to pay three of their pensions, they way the government did for the national Army two weeks ago.

[Harper] Now, isn't the government of the CAR having a bit of trouble at the moment? I mean first of all, it was mutineering soldiers, now it's angry pensioners.

[Bonamsse] You have not finished the catalogue yourself. What you should know is that teachers are now on strike just because of money. After the mutiny, teachers are on strike and medical personnel are also on strike at the moment. Of late, university teachers have stopped working.

[Harper] So it looks like large sections of the population are have had quite enough.

[Bonamsse] The situation in the country is not interesting at the moment. Everybody is unhappy with the way President Ange Felix Patasse is running the country. This man is no longer paying salaries. How do you want the people to remain for two or three months without salaries? It means that if they don't have salaries, they are not eating. So it is a very tense situation people are living in in the capital, Bangui, at the moment. [end recording]

## Zaire

### Zaire: Radical Hutus From Zaire Said To Raid Rwanda, Burundi

BR0305144596 *Groot-Bijgaarden DE STANDAARD*  
in Dutch 3 May 96 p 5

[Report by Rik De Gendt: "Violence From Within Zaire Threatens Rwanda and Burundi"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kigali — There is a threat of incursions by radical Hutus from Zaire, both in Rwanda and in Burundi. This is the conclusion reached by Marrick Goulding, UN deputy secretary general for political affairs, after a visit to the region. DE STANDAARD itself also collected reliable testimonies about increasing infiltrations in the border area.

Relief workers who visited the refugee camps in Eastern Zaire last month confirmed that they saw for themselves how Rwandan youngsters received paramilitary training there. There were even occasional demonstrations of how to use weapons. They were also taught how to commit acts of sabotage after a "voluntary return."

Both in the Rwandan border area of Gisenyi and Cyangugu and in the northern Burundian province of Cibitoke, more and more infiltrations and terror actions are being reported. The latter are often followed by repression operations. A visit to the area has become very risky on account of the high number of antipersonnel mines. Early this week, more than 1,500 Burundians fled from Cibitoke to the Zairian city of Uvira.

According to Goulding, these are coordinated actions of radical Rwandan and Burundian Hutus from Zaire. The UN's senior official is particularly concerned about new violence in Burundi. He suggested the old idea of a multinational peacekeeping force. Some African countries are reportedly willing to supply troops, while Western countries would provide logistic support. Secretary General Butrus-Ghali has already formulated this proposal several times, but he always met with fierce resistance, mostly from the Burundian Government.

**Zaire: Government Expels Rwandan Nationals**

LD0305151896 *Paris Radio France International*  
in French 1230 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of state in Zaire, Mobutu Sese Seko, has been refused permission to go to the United States. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter was unsuccessful in his attempt to obtain a visa for him. He was supposed to be taking part in a meeting of African leaders, a meeting which was finally cancelled.

Meanwhile Zaire continues to expel Zairean nationals of Rwandan origin. More than 700 have been escorted to the border since Tuesday [30 April]. The Zairean Parliament is reported to be ready to authorize a declaration of war against Rwanda. These comments on this were made in Kinshasa by (Wongu Mombuani), a parliamentarian of [President] Mobutu's movement, and the author of a critical report on the presence of Rwandan refugees in Zaire.

**Zaire: Government Closes Border With Burundi To Stop Refugees**

AB0305184296 *Paris AFP in English*  
1830 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kinshasa, May 3 (AFP) — Zaire has closed its border with Burundi to prevent a new influx of refugees, a senior government official said Friday [3 May].

The deputy prime minister in charge of domestic affairs, Gerard Kamanda Wa Kamanda, told AFP the entire border was sealed Thursday "to avoid a new influx of refugees into our territory."

The UN refugee agency says around 2,000 Burundians fleeing ethnic violence in their country have crossed into Zaire so far this month.

The common border is close to the Zairean town of Uvira, near the Burundian capital Bujumbura. Uvira is in the Kivu region, which already houses some 300,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees and several thousand Burundian Hutus.

**Zaire: Parliament Reportedly Ready To Authorize War Against Rwanda**

AB0305142296 *Libreville Africa No. 1 in French*  
1215 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tension continues between Zaire and Rwanda. The Zairian parliament is reportedly

prepared to authorize a declaration of war against Rwanda if a request is made to it. This was stated at a news conference in Kinshasa yesterday by Honorable Vangou Mbabene, an MP belonging to the Zairian presidential group and author of an extremely critical report on the presence of Rwandan refugees in Zaire.

The Constitutional Act governing Zairian institutions stipulates that it is the president of the Republic who declares war upon proposal by the government and after approval by the High Council of the Republic-Transitional Parliament.

**Zaire: Opposition Spokesman Explains Expulsion of Tshisekedi**

LD0505100296 *Paris Radio France International*  
in French 0630 GMT 5 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Opposition members in Zaire have sidelined Etienne Tshisekedi and no longer recognize him as their leader. The decision was taken yesterday in Kinshasa at a meeting of the opposition coordination attended by 215 parties. Etienne Tshisekedi said one week ago that he would dismiss about 60 members of the organization. We interviewed Lambert Mende Omalanga, a spokesman for the Zairian opposition:

[Begin Mende recording] We concluded that the ambitions and the electoral strategy of Etienne Tshisekedi's UDPS [Union for Democracy and Social Progress] have sparked the crisis which is undermining the opposition. Etienne Tshisekedi even refused to prepare with us the necessary conditions for holding elections next year. Given Etienne Tshisekedi's refusal to accept the conciliatory proposals made to him by opposition members of parliament, the plenary assembly of our political family has decided to get rid of the post of leader to which Etienne Tshisekedi was elected in 1993. As of today, our political family [Sacred Union of Radical Opposition] only has a president, Kibassa Maliba. He was unanimously reappointed to his post, both by the assembly and by the coordination bureau. [end recording]

Etienne Tshisekedi's friends say that Lambert Mende, whom you have just heard, is no longer a member of the Sacred Opposition.

## Somalia

### **Somalia: 11 Aidid Supporters Killed in Southern Fighting**

*EA0405190796 Mogadishu Voice of the Somali Republic in Somali 1700 GMT 4 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior spokesman for the RRA [Rahanwein Resistance Army] has said the bandit army of [faction leader Mohamed Farah] Aidid have attacked the vicinity of (Kolonjeer), 45-km from Xuddur district, Bakool region.

He said a vehicle, carrying Aidid's militia who were fighting in Xuddur, was burned out along with provisions and materiel. He added Aidid's bandits were moving as a convoy in the war zone. They lost 11 and many others were injured.

The spokesman added the fighting had intensified in the area of Xuddur. In conclusion, he warned civilians to stop driving along the roads in the war zone, or be responsible for any losses they may suffer.

### **Tanzania: Defense Minister—Border With Burundi To Remain Closed**

*EA0305190996 Dar es Salaam Radio Tanzania Network in Swahili 0700 GMT 3 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has said it will continue to protect its border with Burundi to ensure that people fleeing that country do not enter Tanzania in the hope that the peace talks succeed [sentence as heard]. Defense Minister Edgar Maokola Majogo said the closing of the border had helped reduce incidents of thuggery and killings of innocent people living on the border. Mr. Maokola Majogo was speaking to reporters in his office in Dar es Salaam.

He said there were ongoing efforts under the guidance of a retired president of Tanzania Julius Nyerere to reconcile the various rival groups in Burundi in the hope of bringing about a lasting peace in Burundi, which has been devastated by civil war since October 1993.

## Tanzania

### **Tanzania: Government Denies Allegations of Human Rights Abuses**

*EA0405152396 Zanzibar Voice of Tanzania in Swahili 0400 GMT 4 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has assured its citizens that it is closely monitoring the political situation in Zanzibar and the various events taking place. This was stated in a government statement issued to the media following reports from the opposition printed in some local newspapers that claimed that there have

been human rights abuses here in Zanzibar, especially after a speech read by President Mkapa at the Lumumba Stadium recently.

The statement said it was untrue that 600 people had been arrested, harassed and beaten as a result of the speech but that the allegations were sensational propaganda by the opposition in Zanzibar, bent on giving false reports with the aim of distorting the truth and to tarnish the reputation of the Zanzibar Government. It went on to state that, to its knowledge, the legal steps taken by the Zanzibar revolutionary government bear no evidence of the abuse of human rights as alleged.

The government expressed disappointment with the opposition for persistently refusing to cooperate with the revolutionary government of Zanzibar to bring development to the people of Zanzibar, pursuing instead a policy of spreading falsehoods so as to mask the truth behind their heinous and terrorist acts.

[Words indistinct] citizens, political parties and foreign embassies about unlawful and provocative acts, done on purpose by the opposition.

According to the statement, these acts are aimed at forcing the government into taking legal steps, giving that party reason to complain to the international community that there is the abuse of human rights in Zanzibar.

Appended to the statement was a long list of some of the heinous acts perpetrated by followers of that opposition party, which should be condemned by the political parties and even donors who usually blame the government.

Examples of these acts included the setting on fire of a school and an electric transformer, and the serious beating up of security guards and grabbing their weapons which have not been found to date, even after the assurance by the representative from Pangani region, Honorable Salim Yusuf of CUF, that he would give up the arms to the relevant authorities once he had been assured of his safety.

## Uganda

### **Uganda: Army Pledges To Prevent Election Violence**

*EA0505202596 Kampala Radio Uganda Network in English 1700 GMT 5 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The army council sitting in Kampala under the chairmanship of the minister of state for defense, Mr. Amama Mbabazi, has considered the issue of violence taking place in various parts of the country during this period of elections. The army

council noted that there have been incidents of violence that have occurred in various parts of the country some of which have resulted in death, serious injury to persons and extensive destruction of property.

There has also been rampant threats, intimidation, blackmail and hooliganism in many parts of the country, especially in areas over and around Kampala, Mpigi, Masaka, Mubende, Luwero, Rakai, Lira, Apac, Mbale, Gulu, Kitgum and Arua that are being perpetrated by criminal elements who want to disrupt the electoral process and destroy the peace, security and stability for the country.

The army council expressed concern that this development may degenerate into a state of generalized violence in the whole country, and thus the restraint with which state security agencies have been handling the situation may have created the impression that during this period of presidential elections the state lacks the will or capacity to enforce law and order.

The army council has resolved that the UPDF [Uganda People's Defense Force] respects the democratic right of the individual to choose who to lead him or her and show, therefore, respect to the will of the people as will be freely expressed in the forthcoming presidential elections: that the UPDF vows to and shall at all times defend and protect the constitutional order as established by the new constitution against forces both within and without who are bent on or who are planning to disrupt or destroy it; that the UPDF in collaboration with other law enforcement agencies shall take firm and defensive action against perpetrators of violence and those that reject the method of resolving political differences by constitutional means.

Any person or group of persons who before, during and or after the elections engages in any acts of violence, threats or intimidation or in any other way acts or even attempts to act contrary to the provisions of the constitution shall be isolated and firmly, ruthlessly and decisively dealt with. The UPDF has the will and the capacity to and shall always protect and defend the people of Uganda and their property. The people of Uganda should therefore remain calm and undeterred as they exercise their democratic rights to elect leaders of their choice.

#### **Uganda: Police Deployed in Areas of Election Violence**

EA0305110596 Kampala Radio Uganda Network  
in English 0400 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister for internal affairs Crispus Kiyonga, has announced that effective

from last night there is heavy deployment of police in areas where election violence has become rampant.

At a press conference held at his office in Kampala yesterday, Dr. Kiyonga said the move has been necessitated by acts of intimidation, bodily harm, destruction of property and murder that have been reported by government soldiers and through the local press.

Flanked by the director general of Internal Security Organization, ISO, Brigadier Jim Muhwezi, and inspector general of police, Mr. John Odomel, Dr. Kiyonga said till now [the] government security apparatus has acted with greatest restraint despite having received such reports. He said in spite of several warnings, some people have however chosen to ignore this and continued committing acts that are tantamount to election violence. He cited examples in some parts of the country where individuals are going round telling people that there will be chaos if a certain preferred candidate loses, while others within Kampala are threatening to carry out looting on election day.

Dr. Kiyonga said in some parts of Buganda, including Kampala, some people have been moving around at night and verbally warning fellow citizens that if a certain candidate wins then those who voted for him will be punished. The minister also mentioned the clashes that have taken place between supporters of different presidential candidates and cases where some candidates are reportedly moving with people who are illegally armed.

He said that at a number of [Democratic Party] presidential candidate Paul Ssemogerere's rallies, members of Uganda police force have been beaten, while there are also reports of some criminally minded people trying to recruit Ugandans for purposes of causing violence like (Itongwa). Dr. Kiyonga further told the press [that] in Kamwokya area in Kampala, a supporter of President Museveni was beaten unconscious and later died in hospital. He also reported that a chairman RC [Resistance Committee] One in Nalukolongo area [in Kampala] was kidnapped and his property set on fire but he has since been rescued unharmed by lugazi police.

Dr. Kiyonga, therefore warned any negative element bent on continuing along the violent path to desist from this practice. He reminded all Ugandans, political leaders, and in particular those aspiring for political leadership of the country that Ugandans have now committed themselves to the constitutional path to decide on who should lead them. He said from now on the security agencies will strictly apply the law in combating any acts of election violence. The minister however paid tribute to candidate Yoweri Museveni for

emphasizing nonviolence and use of the ballot paper as a weapon for defeating political opponents.

The inspector general [of] police, Mr. Odomel, announced that because the police force is inadequate to maintain law and order during the election period, he has now recruited a special constabulary force, to aug-

ment it. He said all LDU's [Local Defense Units] and administration police countrywide will now be under the command of the district police commanders for the same purpose and members of ISO have been asked to work jointly with the police before, during, and after the election exercise.

**South Africa: Protesters Burn Israeli Flag, Shout Anti-U.S. Slogans***MB0305152396 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 1500 GMT 3 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The police have fired tear gas at about 1,000 Muslim protesters in downtown Cape Town. The protesters have burned the Israeli flag, and are shouting anti-Israeli and anti-U.S. slogans. The protesters, who earlier marched past Parliament, are now further down Plein Street. A local news photographer, (Yunus Mohammed), has reportedly been injured after having been struck on the head with a rock. Two policemen have also been hit by rocks.

**South Africa: Recognition of PRC Said 'Fast-Approaching Inevitability'***MB0305142396 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 3 May 96 p 2*

[Article by Dale Lautenbach]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The tea leaves are indicating that diplomatic recognition of the People's Republic of China is a fast-approaching inevitability, meaning inevitably too, that SA's [South Africa] diplomatic recognition of Taiwan will be withdrawn.

Madam Wu Yi, China's Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Co-operation, yesterday declared that she would sign a most favoured nation (MFN) agreement with SA.

In the very next breath she said how pleased she had been to share an 80 minute lunch with President dela "in a friendly and frank atmosphere" on Tuesday [30 April]. "President Mandela made it very clear to me that SA is keen to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China at an early date," said Wu at a lunch in Johannesburg hosted by Nedcor and the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Later, in an interview with THE STAR Foreign Service, Wu said China would be reasonable and accommodating in the period of negotiating diplomatic recognition: "We would give full consideration to the historic and economic links between SA and Taiwan."

However, the Chinese view that recognition of Beijing is the sine qua non of a good relationship was made abundantly clear in several of Wu's statements. She noted that China was the largest developing country in the world, a permanent member of the Security Council and had a rapidly growing economy. "China is very promising and I think political leaders of vision would think it logical to recognise China."

Wu and her South African counterpart, Alec Erwin, met at Gallagher Estate yesterday afternoon, an encounter made possible only by virtue of the UN Conference on Trade and Development taking place at this venue.

Wu is the most senior Chinese minister to visit SA and in the normal course of events, the absence of diplomatic ties would have prevented her coming. However the international conference provided the necessary diplomatic cover and she and Erwin concluded the MFN deal.

Kate Kuper, deputy director for foreign trade in the Department of Trade and Industry pointed out that, unlike the name MFN implied no special status but simply that SA would be treated like everyone else in the Chinese market. "It will allow our exporters to compete on an even playing field in the largest market in the world," she said. She stressed, too, that the MFN agreement held no negative ramifications for the SA market.

Another item on the agenda of the talks between Wu and Erwin was the rather more difficult issue of the disruption that cheap Chinese imports were causing on SA markets. Acknowledging that this issue would be addressed, Kuper stressed that the answer did not lie in protectionist steps by SA. A way forward lay in a careful balance between consolidating SA's growing relationship with China, achieving competitiveness in the SA market and taking care not to cause disruption in the labour markets.

Asked whether China might be sympathetic to assisting SA in its dilemma, Wu said a solution was "completely possible".

"We think the problem could be resolved as soon as we can conduct consultations on an equal basis," said Wu — the issue of diplomatic recognition central once again to the relationship.

According to SA trade figures trade between SA and China and Hong Kong combined outstripped trade between Taiwan and SA in 1994, being R4.8-billion and about R4.3-billion to R4.5-billion respectively.

Wu's message was unambiguous: diplomatic recognition would "take trade and economic co-operation between our two countries to a new level".

**South Africa: Mandela 'Confident' on Adoption of Constitution***MB0405194596 Johannesburg SABC 3 Television Network in English 1800 GMT 4 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Mandela says he is confident that the new constitution will be adopted by

the set date. He was speaking in Soweto this afternoon at the unveiling of a tombstone in honor of former South African Communist Party chief Joe Slovo.

Several hundred people attended today's ceremony at the Avalon Cemetery, where Mr. Slovo was buried 16 months ago. Several cabinet ministers, deputy ministers, and leaders of nongovernmental organizations attended the ceremony. Mr. Mandela praised Mr. Slovo for the role he played in South Africa's transition, and reminded those present of the role he had played at the start of the negotiations which led to the drawing up of the interim constitution.

[Begin Mandela recording] We are supremely confident that the constitution which the African National Congress has designed, will eventually be passed as the constitution of this country. That constitution must mirror the hopes and aspirations of the people who gave us the mandate to rule, and we will allow no force whatsoever, either in this country or elsewhere, to stop us from passing a constitution which contains those hopes and aspirations. [end recording]

**South Africa: Top Level Constitutional Negotiations Resume 5 May**

*MB0505150796 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 0500 GMT 5 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Top level negotiations between the ANC and NP [National Party] will resume today in a last minute bid to break the deadlock over the final draft constitution. Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said last night that he would lead the ANC team in today's negotiations, while the NP's team would be led by Deputy President F.W. de Klerk. Negotiations in the Constitutional Assembly ended in the early hours of yesterday morning with no agreement having been reached on three key issues, the clauses relating to education, property rights, and strike lock outs. However, it was decided to go ahead with the printing of the text of the new constitution, with some of the parties reserving their positions on specific clauses. Yesterday the Constitutional Assembly's Technical Refinement Committee and political parties prepared the text of the final draft of the constitution before printing begins today. Tomorrow and on Tuesday [7 May], the second reading debate on the draft bill will take place with adoption scheduled for Wednesday. Should the bill not be approved by the required two thirds majority, a referendum will have to be called.

The National Party leadership will be meeting tomorrow to consider its position on the proposed constitution. It was speculated in two Afrikaans newspapers yesterday that the NP could decide to vote for the constitution

under protest and then walk out of the government of national unity.

**South Africa: Constitutional Assembly To Change Rules To Allow Amendments**

*MB0605092896 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0724 GMT 6 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town May 6 SAPA — The rules of the Constitutional Assembly [CA] are to be changed to allow last-minute amendments to the Constitution Bill, negotiators decided on Monday [6 May] morning. The decision was taken at a meeting of the CA's management committee after weekend talks failed to resolve the three remaining points of dispute between the NP [National Party] and ANC — property, education and the lockout clause.

Negotiators late Friday night gave the go-ahead to print a version of the Bill containing the ANC's formulations of the disputed clauses. As they stand, the CA rules do not allow any changes to the Bill.

Talks between parties are expected to continue on Monday. The full CA meets on Monday afternoon, and is expected to vote on the Bill on Wednesday.

**South Africa: ANC To Go Ahead on Constitution Without Consensus**

*MB0305172196 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1656 GMT 3 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN May 3 SAPA — The deadline for the adoption of the Constitution will not change, even if there is no consensus, chief ANC negotiator Mohammed Valli Moosa said on Friday [3 May].

The ANC and NP [National Party] remain deadlocked on the education, lockout and property clauses in the Bill of Rights, he confirmed. He could not say when the Constitutional Committee [CC] would meet again as negotiations between the ANC and NP on the deadlocked clauses continued behind locked doors.

The Constitution has to be finalised on Friday so it can be tabled in the 490 member Constitutional Assembly on Monday. "The object on Wednesday will be to secure a two-thirds majority in favour of the Constitution. The ideal will be to have consensus on the Constitution".

Friday morning's CC meeting was postponed to allow further negotiation between the ANC and NP on the three deadlocked Bill of Rights clauses. The CC had not reconvened because there were "indications that the possibility exists for agreement", Moosa said. "My own assessment is there is every possibility to reach agreement," he said.

If no agreement could be reached the CC would meet on Friday night anyway, and the Bill would have to be finalised so that drafting could go ahead, Moosa said.

**South Africa: COSATU 'Under Pressure' To Reject Lock-Out Compromise**

*MB0305155696 Johannesburg NEW NATION  
in English 3 May 96 p 14*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] When Cosatu [Congress of South African Trade Unions] reached a settlement with business just under a year ago and agreed to the inclusion of the lock out provision in the new Labour Relations Act (LRA), a group of shop stewards wrote off the deal as a "miserable compromise".

Some complained that they had simply been used as cannon fodder by Cosatu leaders, who after the July 19 national protest last year went ahead and struck a deal. Opposition to the lockout featured prominently in that protest as well.

The deal, according to the dissident shopstewards, was done without a mandate. True or not, Cosatu leaders will want to avoid similar criticism and there is every indication that it will not move from its determination to see the lock out clause excluded from the constitution altogether.

Having pulled off a hugely successful protest all around the country, it will be under pressure to stick to the demands around which it mobilised its members and hold out until the lock out provision is excluded from the Bill of Rights.

Cosatu recognises this reality and that was apparent from comments by the federation's assistant general secretary, Zwelenzima Vavi, earlier this week when asked if the protest would be called off: "If we do that I think our members will feel that we've really taken them for a ride."

It was therefore not surprising when Cosatu promptly rejected a compromise suggested to it by the ANC on the eve of Tuesday's [30 April] action. Although a tripartite alliance meeting was hastily organised to resolve the disagreement, the strike went ahead.

Vavi said that despite negotiations with the ANC and the NP [National Party], Cosatu would not agree to any reformulation of the clauses it objected to.

"We have made it very clear to the ANC and to big business that we are not interested in any reformulation. We want complete silence on the lock-out clause in the constitution."

This is, however, not something business will readily agree to. If it does, the future of the lock out provision,

currently written into the new Labour Relations Act, could be in jeopardy unless employers can show that the law is consistent with the constitution.

Reports earlier during the week pointed out that the ANC and the National Party had come close to a settlement when a formulation which entrenched the right to lockout via an oblique reference to the LRA was hammered out.

What business hoped to secure through the reference in the Bill of Rights was the future of a lock out clause in the LRA.

At best, this would have recognised a limited right to lock out given the fact that the formulation in the LRA specifically places limits on the lock out when used as an offensive weapon.

Among the limitations won by labour during the LRA negotiations is the ban on the use of scab labour when employers resort to an offensive lockout.

While labour accepted the inclusion of the lockout clause in the LRA, partly because of the restrictions it managed to write into the law, it is clearly reluctant to have such a limited right entrenched through the constitution.

Its main concern seems to be linked to the long term implications that a constitutional guarantee has.

If business succeeds in including the right in the constitution, employers can rest assured that the lock out provision will remain entrenched in law — unless of course a labour friendly government secures a two thirds majority in Parliament to amend the constitution. With the constitution amended, government would need no more than a simple majority in the legislature to change the LRA and scrap the lockout provision.

But there are no guarantees that even an ANC government, or for that matter any party, will have a two-thirds majority in Parliament after the 1999 general elections. Without such a majority, the ANC will find it difficult changing the LRA.

From a labour point of view, it would therefore make sense to keep the lock out provision out of the constitution now when the ANC and its allies are in a relatively strong position.

That will make it easier to scrap the lock out provision from the LRA when the need arises.

Business too has no guarantees that it will have a political ally in power that it could rely on to change the constitution. It must therefore make the best of the current emphasis on achieving a consensus constitution.

This explains its desire to see the inclusion of a clause in the Bill of Rights which secures the lock out provision even if its not listed as a right.

**South Africa: Inkatha Party Says New Constitution 'Illegitimate'**

*MB0505155296 Johannesburg Saffm Radio Network in English 1400 GMT 5 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi says that because of the exclusion of the IFP from the negotiation process, the new constitution will be an illegitimate document. Addressing an IFP rally at Turton on the KwaZulu/Natal south coast, Mr. Buthelezi described the new constitution as the gravest threat to people's liberty. Meanwhile, reports say ANC and National Party members are engaged in last minute talks in a bid to end the deadlock over the constitution before the three day parliamentary debate which begins tomorrow. The final draft of the constitution is being printing today in preparation for its being tabled in Parliament tomorrow morning.

**South Africa: Draft Constitution 'Ready' for Printing Despite Differences**

*MB0405194896 Johannesburg Saffm Radio Network in English 1100 GMT 4 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The final draft of South Africa's new constitution is being polished in Cape Town, following an agreement by politicians that despite their differences, the draft bill should be drawn up for debate by the Constitutional Assembly [CA]. The executive director of the Constitutional Assembly, Mr. Hassan Ibrahim, told our political news team that representatives of the political parties will help the CA's tactical refinement team put the new bill together. They are meeting today to go through the 122 page document. Mr. Ibrahim said the team and the political representatives would consider the exact text of the bill, and ensure that it is in terms of the political agreements reached. They will also ensure that there are no legal or constitutional difficulties with the way the entire constitution hangs together. Mr. Ibrahim also said that today's meeting would allow the printing of the new bill to begin by tomorrow. He said that on Monday about 2,500 copies of the draft legislation would be ready for distribution to members of the CA, to enable proper debate in the Assembly to begin. The second reading debate of the draft bill is scheduled to take place on Monday and Tuesday with the formal adoption on Wednesday.

Smaller parties such as the PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress] and the African Christian Democratic Party have already indicated that they will be voting against the bill. Larger parties such as the National Party [NP], Demo-

cratic Party, and Freedom Front have reserved the position on some clauses and opposed others. The NP said last night it would continue to negotiate with the ANC on clauses where no agreement could be reached.

**South Africa: ANC To Proceed With 10 May 'Stayaway' in KwaZulu/Natal**

*MB0305155096 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1431 GMT 3 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DURBAN May 3 SAPA — The African National Congress on Friday [3 May] said it would go ahead with a stayaway in KwaZulu-Natal on May 10 despite strong criticism from the business sector.

Provincial chairman Jacob Zuma, releasing the party's local-government elections manifesto in Durban, said the business sector appeared indifferent to continuing violence in the province. The ANC announced the stayaway plan earlier this week, saying the aim was for people to express their anger about an attack on Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini's family in KwaMashu near Durban last week.

Big business was concerned only about profit, Zuma said, warning business people to "walk quite carefully".

The release of the election manifesto did not mean the ANC had reviewed its earlier call for the postponement of elections in the province, Zuma said. The ANC had a moral right to challenge voters' roll fraud. If the remaining issues affecting the election were not addressed, particularly those related to rural areas, then May 29 would not be a realistic date for holding free and fair elections.

**South Africa: Inkatha Member Says 95 ANC 'No-Go' Areas in KwaZulu/Natal**

*MB0305160896 Durban ILANGA in Zulu 2-4 May 96 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] member Sigele Philip Powell has disclosed that there are 95 ANC no-go areas in the KwaZulu/Natal midlands and in the northern parts of the province. Powell said IFP canvassing is not tolerated in most of the ANC no-go areas, while ANC candidates are allowed to canvass freely in IFP strongholds. He added that during the past 12 years, 430 IFP leaders and 12,000 supporters have been murdered. Powell said the campaign to kill IFP leaders is continuing with the aim of wiping out the IFP leadership in order to gain a postponement of the local government elections.

### South Africa: Violence Erupts Between Durban Police, Hostel Dwellers

*MB0405154296 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 1500 GMT 4 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Several people have been shot during a march by hostel dwellers through Durban city center. Police spokesman Andre Visser confirmed that a number of people had been wounded, at least three of them seriously. Two of the victims are police officers. One is in a serious condition at St Augustine's Hospital.

The marchers are hostel dwellers from KwaMashu, who are protesting against the ban on the display of dangerous weapons. The first police officer was apparently wounded when he tried to confiscate an AK-47 rifle from one of the gunmen. The second officer was hit in the running gun battle between police and suspects.

Reports say the gunmen have taken refuge in a building in the city center. The police are searching the area on foot and in helicopters. Several parked vehicles were damaged. When Durban SABC staff member Annette Makhanya returned to her car parked along the march route, she found it riddled with bullets.

About an hour ago, spectators watching the march from in front of the luxury Royal Hotel sought safety in the hotel foyer when a bystander was wounded by gunfire, and latest reports from our reporters at the scene say hundreds of marchers have now gathered around Durban City Hall, where they are firing shots into the air.

The group from KwaMashu Hostel has now been joined by hostel dwellers from T Section in Umlazi, south of Durban. All major roads leading to the city from the south have been sealed off by police.

### South African Press Review for 3 May

*MB0305134496*

[FBIS Report]

### MAIL & GUARDIAN

Mandela's 'Appeasement' of Buthelezi — Referring to President Nelson Mandela's policy of national reconciliation and his appointment of Inkatha Freedom Party, IFP, leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi to the Cabinet, Johannesburg MAIL & GUARDIAN in English for 3-9 May in a page-22 editorial asks "what should be done with a fellow who is sharing one's tent and threatening to burn it down." Mandela is "intent" on pursuing national reconciliation "where Buthelezi is concerned." MAIL & GUARDIAN notes the ANC "concessions" in the constitutional negotiations on the autonomy of the provinces, as well as the likely Cabinet decision to pro-

ceed with the KwaZulu/Natal 29 May elections "which many of the ANC's supporters in the that province will see as a final betrayal." "It would be easy to accuse Mandela of appeasement and caution that such an approach never works. But rejecting the softly-softly way necessitates the advocacy of strong-arm tactics which could impel KwaZulu/Natal down the bloody road of secessionist struggle." However, MAIL & GUARDIAN feels "disgust at the rhetoric and reality of violence which underpin Inkatha's approach to politics. At the very least Mandela should seriously consider whether Buthelezi belongs in the Cabinet."

### NEW NATION

'Heightening Tensions' in KwaZulu/Natal — Government should take warnings of heightening tensions in KwaZulu/Natal "seriously" according to Johannesburg NEW NATION in English on 3 May in a page-10 editorial. Reports given to the government by the National Intelligence Agency, "pointing to the build-up of weapons caches in the province ahead of the local government elections, suggests that an intensification of the war is imminent." Authorities are encouraged to be "pre-emptive" and ensure the weapons are found and removed. "If need be, the requisite security powers at government's disposal must be invoked to ensure that the loss of human life is minimised, even if this means that the May 29 poll is postponed."

### BUSINESS DAY

Lack of Coherent Economic Policy — Trade and Industry Minister Alec Erwin's promise of a new competition policy to be discussed by business and labor is welcomed by a page-18 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 3 May. "Anything concrete is better than the broad lack of coherent economic policy that is progressively rattling local and foreign investors' confidence in this country." For the present, "foreigners are likely to remain chary of investing here" due to the "rand collapse which has helped knock 20% or so off the value of investments built up by foreigners in the two years since the post-election euphoria of 1994." Commenting on the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU)-called strike, the paper says "no matter how it is argued, politically motivated strikes give the wrong impression to foreign and local investors." "Business and investment confidence are both at their lowest in two years and are unlikely to be helped by government's occasional economic tinkering. They need a coherent and cohesive economic strategy, now."

## THE CITIZEN

Is COSATU 'Able To Wag the ANC Tail'? — Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 1 May in its page-6 editorial comments on the COSATU-called strike and COSATU Secretary General Sam Shilowa's "hardline attitude" on the issue of the lock out clause, saying it hopes President Mandela is right in suggesting that "a version" of the lock-out clause will remain in the constitution. "If not, the ANC will lose the confidence of the business community for fairness and evenhandedness. For if COSATU is able to wag the ANC tail, then the ANC will be shown to be in cahoots with the unions, acting in the interests of the workers and dismissing the interests of the employers." "We need a strong government, not one led by the nose by COSATU."

South African Press Review for 5 May 96

MB0505170196

[FBIS Report]

## RAPPORT

No Concessions on Constitution — "The firm stand taken this week by National Party leader F. W. de Klerk in particular, prevented South Africa from getting a constitution, which gave extraordinary powers to a majority government while interfering with the rights of minorities," notes an editorial on page 20 of the Johannesburg RAPPORT in Afrikaans of 5 May. "The serious deadlocks" in the negotiations "have brought the country to a watershed", and should all efforts fail, "the country could be headed for a referendum." "This is certainly not the most desirable step, but it is preferable by far to "a future in which a strong majority party, which is already exhibiting ominous authoritarian features, would be beyond the control of a constitution." Mr. de Klerk "deserves a pat on the back for the manner in which his party stood firm" against "efforts by the ANC to throw its majority power around. But "there must be no watering-down of principles or stands already taken." Should a referendum become unavoidable, "the ANC would be the party which would lose the most" and any show of coercion " would finally destroy the illusion that the majority in South Africa, through its political representative, the ANC, wish to bring about a true democracy." "It does not take much imagination to predict what levels the rand would plummet to, or the damage this would cause to business confidence."

'New South Africa' a Thing of the Past — In his "Sunday" column on the same page of RAPPORT, Izak de Villiers writes: "Amid the flurry around the constitution and the pathetic performance of the rand this past week", the "wheels of the New South Africa came unstuck," and it became clear that the consensus needed "in a tolerant democracy does not exist." "The current disillusionment just came much faster to all sides," with "a cabinet minister even telling foreign investors to go to blazes. The danger that South Africa could now try to put the failed socialist experiment to the test is not so far fetched." Already, says the columnist, trade union leader Sam Shilowa "said in a television interview this week that the free market system in South Africa had had sufficient time to prove itself — and failed." "It has suddenly become clear that in this country the debate between the communists/socialists and the supporters of the free market is being conducted more vehemently than anywhere else on earth." No one can deny that "the New South Africa, as it is understood, has come to an end, and we now have a fully fledged ideological struggle: on the one side, the ANC and its allies, on the other, the whole business sector and the minority parties in parliament." "What can those of us do who do not want to live under the socialist yoke?" "Let us stop swooning over the South African miracle," and "let us instead open our eyes and ears to what is happening around us, and be prepared."

## SUNDAY TIMES

Three Easy Steps to Agreement — A Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES page 20 editorial in English on 6 May offers three easy solutions to the "no more than two dozen words" now needed to gain a constitution. On the educational clause — have the ANC insist that "where dual-medium education is offered in a state school, the quality of instruction must be of an equivalent standard to that offered in the other languages." On the property clause — "if the ANC intends to include mineral rights, it should say so unambiguously." And on the most controversial point of allowing a lockout of striking workers — "we suggest that 'offensive' lockouts, where workers who wish to work are locked out, be unconstitutional. 'Defensive' lockouts, where owners maintain the right to control their plants, be declared constitutional. Then workers' fears will be allayed, investors' interest protected and tempers cooled all round".

### Angola

#### Angola: UN's Butrus-Ghali Recommends 2-Month Extension for Unavem-3

MB0505131296 *Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1930 GMT 4 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali has recommended to the UN Security Council the extension of the UN Angola Verification Mission-3 [Unavem-3] for only two months. According to Butrus Ghali, the advances made so far fall below the UN Security Council's expectations. The UN secretary general's report dated 30 April and issued in New York yesterday, says UNITA has virtually ceased to confine its troops, although there was an increase in the influx of UNITA troops to confinement areas toward the end of April. [passage omitted]

### Zimbabwe

#### Zimbabwe: Official Confirms Nkomo in Cape Town Hospital

MB0305132296 *Johannesburg SAPA in English 1314 GMT 3 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town May 3 SAPA — Zimbabwean Vice President Joshua Nkomo was admitted to a Cape Town's Kingsbury Hospital this week where he is believed to have undergone a bladder operation. A hospital spokesman said he had been admitted as a private patient but refused to divulge details. She said Nkomo had been discharged.

A spokesman for the Zimbabwean consulate said Nkomo was still in Cape Town and would return home in the next few days. He could not confirm the nature of the operation and said Zimbabwean consulate officials were merely aware that a "high official" was in the country on a private visit.

#### Zimbabwe: 2 Men Shot in Public 'Guerrilla-Style' Execution

MB0505153496 *Johannesburg SAPA in English 0921 GMT 5 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] HARARE May 5 SAPA — Two Zimbabweans have been shot dead in a guerrilla-

style public execution that Sunday [5 May] newspaper reports said were allegedly carried out by gunmen from the Chimwenje [Torch] movement. The movement is linked to veteran opposition politician Rev Ndabaningi Sithole.

Police confirmed Mavis Murereke and Smart Mangezi were killed at Vimba business centre in the remote Chimanimani district in south-east Zimbabwe last week. But police have not established the killers were members of Chimwenje (Shona for lantern).

The incident is the first of its kind in Zimbabwe in at least four years, since guerrillas of the Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] movement began scaling down their attacks inside Zimbabwe as the civil war in neighboring Mozambique began to subside.

President Robert Mugabe's security services claim Chimwenje is the military wing of Sithole's ZANU (Ndonga) party, which is supported with almost fanatical zeal among the mountainous area's Shangaan-speaking people.

The two men jailed last year for their role in a plot to blow up Mugabe were described as members of the movement which was based in the bush in Mozambique.

Sithole, who is to go on trial for allegedly heading the conspiracy, denies the movement exists. But the SUNDAY MAIL & GUARDIAN newspaper quoted an eyewitness to the incident as saying that the gang of 10 men rounded up people at the business centre, declared that they were "Chimwenje soldiers" and forced their captives to toyi-toyi.

They then torched a government truck, looted a store and forced seven people to carry the goods back into Mozambique for them. Six of the kidnapped people were allowed to return home, the newspaper said.

Observers say the incident is characteristic of the pattern of guerrilla attacks carried out along Zimbabwe's eastern border in the seventies by black nationalist fighters in the country's civil war for independence, and in the eighties by RENAMO guerrillas.

## Benin

### Benin: Cabinet Appoints New Defense Staff Chief, Others

AB0305142096 Cotonou Office de  
Radiodiffusion-Television du Benin Radio in French  
0615 GMT 3 May 96

[Report on the Council of Ministers' session held in Cotonou on 2 May; read by Communication Minister Timothee Zanou — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] On the proposal of the minister delegate to the president of the Republic in charge of national defense, the following appointments were made under the Ministry of National Defense: Chief of defense staff, Colonel Gandonou Kodja; deputy chief of defense staff, Colonel Marcellin Sinsin; chief of Army staff, Colonel Felicien dos Santos; deputy chief of Army staff, Colonel Philippe Gnamou.

The rest are chief of Navy staff, Lieutenant Colonel Prosper Tiando; deputy chief of Navy staff, Major Souleyman Marcos; director general of the National Gendarmerie, Colonel Jean Ndah; deputy director general of the National Gendarmerie, Lieutenant Colonel Pancrace Brathier. [passage omitted]

## Ghana

### Ghana: ECOWAS Officials Arrive for Liberia Summit

AB0605085696 Accra Ghana Broadcasting  
Corporation Radio Network in English  
0600 GMT 6 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Representatives of countries constituting the ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] Committee of Nine on Liberia have been arriving in Accra for the summit scheduled for tomorrow on Liberia. Among those who arrived last night were delegations from The Gambia, Benin, and Guinea, and the UN secretary general's special representative on Liberia, Mr. James Jonah.

The special representative spoke to newsmen at the airport about the essence of the Accra summit in the absence of some of the faction leaders. Mr. Jonah said the chairman of ECOWAS must consult with his colleagues to evaluate the deteriorating situation in Monrovia and come out with concrete results for a cease-fire. Mr. Jonah explained that the ECOWAS special envoys on Liberia have already held discussions with the NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] leader, Mr. Charles Taylor, and Alhaji Koromah of ULIMO-K [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia-Koromah] and are in Ghana to report their impressions to the chairman.

On his personal impression about the willingness of the faction leaders to make peace in the face of resumed fighting, Mr. Jonah said there is still the will to make peace. He said what is required now is the realization of the leaders that the international community is not going to wait too long for them to decide on peace. He could not, however, tell how peace could be achieved immediately. Asked why ECOMOG [ECOWAS Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] is not mandated to enforce peace in Liberia, Mr. Jonah said the rules of engagement of many peacekeeping forces are always in doubt and that the meeting will have to discuss the new role of ECOMOG in the face of renewed hostilities.

### Ghana: Liberian State Council Chairman Sankawolo Interviewed at Summit

AB0605105296 London BBC World Service  
in English 0630 GMT 6 May 96

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ghanaian capital, Accra, this week plays host to an ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] summit, where it is hoped that some sort of Liberian peace deal can be hammered out. Faction leader Roosevelt Johnson is currently in Accra as is Wilton Sankawolo, the chairman of the Liberian Council of State; but there are two very notable absentees in that Council of State, Charles Taylor and Alhaji Koromah. On the line from Accra, Mr. Sankawolo told Nick Slatter their absence didn't bother him at all.

[Begin recording] [Sankawolo] I am the chairman of the Council of State of Liberia, and I am going to attend this thing. Whatever the result would be is what they will accept. If they did not trust me, if they did not feel that I was competent enough to represent their interest I won't be here.

[Slatter] You say that you are chairman, sir, but some people say that Mr. Charles Taylor acts on his own, and it is very important for him to be there.

[Sankawolo] Nick, I am telling you one thing: I am not here to argue over what people have told you and what they have not told you. I am telling you that I am the chairman of the Council of State and I am representing the Liberian Government, and all that is nonsense. I don't want to even discuss that.

[Slatter] What do you imagine that Mr. Taylor will be up to in Monrovia in your absence?

[Sankawolo] I don't know, I don't know.

[Slatter] Well, people say that he will be taking military matters into his own hands when you are away.

[Sankawolo] No, Mr. Taylor is there representing the government, he is part of the council, he is a member of the council, and so whatever he does will be done in the interest of the council.

[Slatter] Can you do business with Mr. Johnson?

[Sankawolo] So, what are you trying to say? Look, I came here to this conference. I didn't come here to do business with anybody else but with the heads of state I am going to be meeting. You see, they invited me, and I am going to be at the meeting. This is what I came here for; I didn't come to do business with anybody else.

[Slatter] But, Mr. Johnson is going to be there, isn't he?

[Sankawolo] I don't know. If he is going to be there or he is not going to be there is not my business...

[Slatter, interrupting] Well, let's suppose he is there, what will you say to him?

[Sankawolo] But, I didn't go to him; why do I have to speak to him? I say the people I am going to talk with are the presidents who will be there. I am talking to heads of state and not somebody else, whoever he is. Unless he is a president or whatever, but, look, this is an official matter we are (?on). We didn't come here to joke. I am telling you I am going to talk to the heads of state. This is a summit, you understand that? A summit is only concerning heads of state. These are the people that I will talk with, you hear?

[Slatter] But, Johnson is there. Isn't it quite important to talk to him too?

[Sankawolo] Look, I don't want us to carry on this discussion. If you have some other question, you can bring that, I will try to answer, but this is not an interview. [end recording]

#### **Ghana: Ministry Issues Statement on 'False' Press Reports**

*AB0505192996 Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 5 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ministry of Information has issued a statement on recent publications in some sections of the Ghanaian press that an American district court has ordered Commander Asase Jimah of the National Security Headquarters to be brought for trial in the United States. The statement, signed by the sector minister, Mr. Kofi Totobi-Quakyi, said the publications are not only false and malicious, but a gross distortion of the facts of the case and a deliberate misrepresentation of the order of the district court judge. This, he said, was obviously with the view to bringing Commander Asase Jimah into hatred, ridicule, and concern and

also injuring the reputation of the country and the Government of Ghana.

The facts, according to the statement, are that a one-time Ghana trade counselor in New York, Mr. Kabiri, was found to be implicated in the ill-fated abortive attempt by foreign mercenaries to invade Ghana in 1986. It said some Ghanaian dissidents, with the connivance of certain foreign powers, plotted an invasion of Ghana for the purpose of overthrowing the then PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] government. The group hired American mercenaries and chartered a ship by name the Nobisto. They purchased weapons and loaded them into the ship which set sail from Argentina to pick dissidents waiting in Cote d'Ivoire for the final assault on Ghana.

The statement said the security agencies in Ghana got wind of it. They were informed that Mr. Kabiri was secretly coordinating the activities of the mercenaries and dissidents on behalf of some foreign interests. It said when the ship entered the territorial waters of Brazil, the Government of Ghana alerted the Brazilian Government which in turn alerted its navy. The Brazilian Navy discovered the ship fully laden with mercenaries, weapons, and ammunition. The mercenaries were arrested, tried, convicted, and jailed accordingly. The ship and her cargo were all confiscated.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kabiri, who had been recalled for consultations, was detained for interrogation. Notwithstanding the compelling evidence against him, the Government of Ghana decided not to prosecute Mr. Kabiri since a trial would require the public disposing of confidential information which would compromise the security of the state as well as put the informants at risk. Mr. Kabiri was, however, dismissed from the civil service.

On his release from custody, he traveled back to the United States where he was immediately granted asylum as a political refugee, although he is not wanted for any offense in Ghana. He thereafter refused to quit the official Ghana Government residence he was occupying, hinting that the American law enforcement agencies would never force him out under any circumstances after alleged wrongful dismissal and torture. He named over 20 top-ranking Ghanaian officials as either responsible for his dismissal or the alleged torture. At that time, he never mentioned Commander Asase Jimah. The statement said the defense team of the Ghana Government filed a motion asking for Mr. Kabiri counterclaims to be dismissed, arguing, among other things, that the U.S. court was not the proper place for justice to be heard.

The defense team was joined by Commander Asase Jimah for the purpose of filing a deposition to deny the allegations of torture fabricated by Mr. Kabiri.

Commander Asase Jimah was the officer in charge of all matters concerning the Nobisto affair. When the case appeared to be going against Mr. Kabiri, he sent for Commander Asase Jimah as a tactical measure to gain some advantage and instituted a civil suit against him personally, alleging torture at the commander's instance. Meanwhile, the court had ordered Mr. Kabiri to vacate by 30 June 1996 the Ghana Government premises he has been illegally occupying in New York since 1986.

The defense team again raised a preliminary objection to Mr. Kabiri's latest suit, arguing that the American court did not have jurisdiction. The U.S. district court judge, however, rejected the submission and has asked the lawyers of both parties to appear for a pretrial conference tomorrow for purposes of scheduling further proceedings in the action. The defense lawyers have, however, indicated their intention to appeal against the ruling of the district court judge. The statement said according to the text of the judgment, Commander Asase Jimah has never been on trial, the said case being a civil suit filed at the instance of Mr. Kabiri, neither did the district judge ever order the surrender of Commander Asase Jimah for trial as alleged in the press publication.

The statement added that the attorney general is consideration appropriate action to take in respect of the publication. Commander Asase Jimah has also indicated that he is taking civil action against the publication.

### **Liberia**

#### **Liberia: Factional Fighting Continues in Monrovia**

AB0405130096 Paris AFP in English  
0937 GMT 4 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Monrovia, May 4 (AFP) — Monrovia awoke to the now familiar sound of heavy gunfire Saturday [4 May] morning as factional fighters continued to battle in several areas of the city.

Automatic rifles, rocket propelled grenades and shelling could be heard from before 6:00 a.m. (0600 GMT) from the Mamba Point district, an area housing several embassies and aid agencies, now largely deserted after almost a month of factional clashes.

The fighting was continuing around 9:00 a.m. (0900 GMT)

Saturday's fighting came a day after Roosevelt Johnson, the leader of an ethnic Krahn faction, left Liberia for Accra, Ghana, where he is due to attend peace talks called by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

#### **Liberia: Fighting Continues; AFP Notes Evidence of Executions**

AB0505174996 Paris AFP in English  
1726 GMT 5 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Monrovia, May 5 (AFP) — Factional fighting raged on in the Liberian capital on Sunday [5 May], leaving at least five people dead and several buildings burnt out, AFP correspondents in the city said.

Though much of Monrovia was calm around 2:30 p.m. (1430 GMT), clashes earlier in the day were described by local radio as among the worst since security in the capital broke down a month ago.

Some victims seen by an AFP photographer in a courtyard off Benson Street in the city center had clearly been executed, as their throats had been cut. The ears of one had been sliced off. Another had a bullet hole in the side of his head.

"The situation is utter chaos here," U.S. Marine Corps Colonel Wayne Forbush told Cable News Network (CNN) from the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia. "I see really little hope of improvement here. That's my personal opinion," he said.

Earlier Sunday, ethnic Krahn fighters advanced into the Mamba Point district, where several embassies and aid agency offices — now largely deserted — are located. Just a few hundred metres (yards) from the U.S. Embassy, Krahn's battled with members of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL).

The NPFL is led by warlord and State Council member Charles Taylor, who has said his troops will not stop fighting until Krahn "terrorists" hand over their weapons to the Nigerian-led West African peacekeeping force ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group].

Thick black smoke was seen billowing from two buildings in the Mamba Point district, one of them a Catholic school. Several other fires were reported elsewhere in the city. By early Sunday afternoon, NPFL fighters had left the area around Benson Street, according to both ECOMOG and Krahn fighters loyal to faction leader Roosevelt Johnson.

It was the government's attempt to arrest Johnson on April 6 which ignited the fighting in the Liberian capital. Johnson, who left Monrovia last week on a U.S. helicopter, was in Ghana's capital Accra on Sunday ahead of talks this week on the situation in Liberia.

**Liberia: ECOMOG Forces Kill 2 NPFL Soldiers;  
Johnson Interviewed**

*AB0505184996 London BBC World Service  
in English 1705 GMT 5 May 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Liberia's NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] and ULIMO [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia] factions have been poised this weekend for what they hoped would be the final assault on the BTC [Barclay Training Center] barracks, which are the main stronghold of rival Krahn forces loyal to Roosevelt Johnson. This latest offensive follows a statement by the NPFL's leader, Charles Taylor, that the battle for the Barclay Training Center would end in victory for his men, but the attack is meeting resistance, as our correspondent, Jonathan Peleye, reports in this telex from Monrovia:

Fighting has been raging all day around the Barclay Training Center and the two bridges linking central Monrovia with the port at Bushrod Island. It took a more serious turn this afternoon, when two NPFL militiamen were killed in a shoot-out with ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] troops. The two NPFL commanders were gunned down at about midday when heavily armed ECOMOG soldiers opened fire at a roadblock. The ECOMOG troops are said to have resorted to force after the militiamen prevented them from passing across the bridges to reach central Monrovia. No casualties have been reported on the ECOMOG side. The shooting incident forced some churches to call off Sunday services as people fled in all directions.

A ULIMO-K [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia-Koromah faction] fighter who took part in the shoot-out told me: ECOMOG soldiers have been taking us for granted for years, but no explanation has been given for the killing of our two friends. Our reaction will be even more bloody. Charles Taylor, in radio contact with NPFL frontline generals immediately after the incident, said the authorities would have to investigate the incident because according to Mr. Taylor, this is not the first time ECOMOG troops have behaved like (?beasts) to his soldiers.

Meanwhile, a fierce battle has been raging in other parts of the city with key buildings set on fire. Fighting is also going on along United Nations Boulevard, a street running between the main barracks and the diplomatic enclave of Mamba Point, as Krahn fighters battle fiercely to contain the advance of NPFL and ULIMO-K troops.

[Announcer] Now, given all the military and diplomatic confusion, the chances of any kind of progress at this week's ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] meeting on Liberia appear pretty slim, and the man at the eye of the storm is Roosevelt Johnson of ULIMO-J [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia-Johnson faction]. Last week, Johnson finally left Liberia after several weeks, holed up with his Krahn fighters in the BTC, and flew to Freetown with help from the United States and ECOWAS. Well, since yesterday morning, Roosevelt Johnson has been in Accra, where the talks start on Tuesday [7 May]. On the line, Mary Harper put it to him that he had been defeated and was running for his life, as Charles Taylor and others were saying.

[Begin recording] [Johnson] Look, I've stayed in Monrovia for the past month with my forces and I never left because of the fear of my life, but I left in response and with respect to the chairman of ECOWAS' call. Look, I think if anybody has left for the fear of their life, it should be Mr. Taylor and Mr. Koromah.

[Harper] I am sure you have heard, Mr. Johnson, that neither Mr. Taylor nor Mr. Koromah are actually planning to come to Accra for these talks anymore, anyway.

[Johnson] I know that Mr. Taylor and Mr. Koromah cannot go against the will of the African leaders and not [words indistinct] of the Liberian people, but if they wish to do so, then the African heads of state and the Liberian people will decide what to do next.

[Harper] You can't deny, Mr. Johnson, that without either Charles Taylor or Alhaji Koromah, these talks will be pretty pointless.

[Johnson] Look, I think Mr. Taylor and Mr. Koromah know who Roosevelt Johnson is, you understand? They know, you understand, and if they don't want to come, that's their business, but we know we are here. Look, don't let Mr. Taylor and Mr. Koromah put the (?world) under the impression that they are in control of things down there. They know what's happening there. We are not trying to boast of any military might, but I think Mr. Taylor and Mr. Koromah will see reason to this meeting.

[Harper] Before you left Monrovia, where were you?

[Johnson] Look, I was with my men at the battlefield, and I think Mr. Koromah and Mr. Taylor are living testimony to that. I don't sit at the back and make noise the way Koromah and Taylor can make noise. When I get ready for battle, I'll be at the battlefield.

[Harper] I suppose, Mr. Johnson, that you are far more comfortable now that you are in Accra, Ghana, than you were when you were in the BTC in Monrovia.

[Johnson] Look, I was more comfortable when I was with my men. In fact, I find it very difficult to sleep because I love to be at the battlefield. I am a [words indistinct] soldier, you understand, and when bullets are flying, I like to be with my men, I don't run away from them, you understand, and I told Taylor and Koromah that I was not going to surrender to them, and they know what happened. If I was a coward I would have run away, I am not a coward.

[Harper] What are you going to do now? Are you going to stay out of Liberia for the time being?

[Johnson] Immediately after the meeting, I am going to return to Liberia. Taylor and Koromah know me. When I tell them I am going to do this, I do it. I am going to go right back to Liberia. Liberia belongs to everyone of us, and we are going to live there.

[Harper] So, how are you going to get back then?

[Johnson] How, is not important, what is important is that I am going to get back to Liberia.

[Harper] By plane, on foot, by car? How are you planning?

[Johnson] That is not important whether I fly, whether I ride, whether I jump, I don't think it is important. The objective is....[pauses] the primary objective is, I am going to get back to Liberia. [end recording]

**Liberia: 'Sustained Gunfire' Reported Near U.S. Embassy**

AB0605110596 Paris AFP in English  
1050 GMT 6 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Monrovia, 6 May (AFP) — Sustained gunfire was heard early Monday [6 May] around the U.S. Embassy in the Liberian capital. The fresh outbreak of shooting began less than two hours before a unilateral ceasefire declared by faction leader Charles Taylor was due to take effect.

**Liberia: NPFL's Taylor Agrees To Cease-Fire Effective 6 May**

AB0605090896 Paris AFP in English  
0826 GMT 6 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Monrovia, 6 May (AFP) — Liberian faction leader Charles Taylor agreed to observe a unilateral ceasefire in the bloody clashes raging in Monrovia as from midday (1200 GMT) Monday [6 May], national radio reported.

Taylor, who sits on Liberia's ruling six-man interim Council of State, said "government forces" would not attack rival factional fighters unless they were attacked first.

Taylor, who heads the National Patriotic Front of Liberia [NPFL], has referred to his militiamen and those of fellow council member Alhaji Koromah as "government forces" since this crisis began early April with the attempted arrest of rival faction leader Roosevelt Johnson on murder charges.

Taylor said he had agreed to a ceasefire after telephone consultations with officials from Nigeria and Guinea. Nigeria leads the West African peacekeeping force (ECOMOG) [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] in Liberia.

Taylor's opponents in the Monrovia fighting, factions largely dominated by members of the Krahn ethnic group, have on several occasions expressed to international mediators their commitment to a ceasefire deal brokered April 19 but which only lasted nine days.

**Liberia: NPFL's Taylor, ULIMO's Koromah Not To Attend Accra Summit**

AB0405191096 London BBC World Service  
in English 1705 GMT 4 May 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] All hell has been let loose today around the Barclay Training Center [BTC] in Monrovia, the Liberian capital. Charles Taylor of the NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] has been left in splendid isolation after the other faction leaders, including the man they were all out to get, Roosevelt Johnson, were helicoptered out of the city yesterday, and it seems Taylor has tried to fulfill his pledge to clear Johnson's supporters of ULIMO-J [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia-Johnson faction], the LPC [Liberian Peace Council], and the AFL [Armed Forces of Liberia] out of the BTC barracks, but there's been heavy resistance, and there's also been fierce fighting elsewhere, especially on the bridges linking the city to Bushrod Island. From Monrovia, Jonathan Peleyle telexed this report:

Today's fighting, the heaviest in four days, broke out at 10 O'clock this morning when NPFL and ULIMO-K [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia-Koromah faction] forces attempting to move toward the Barclay Training Center encountered stiff resistance from troops inside the barracks. The heavily armed NPFL and ULIMO-K fighters advanced on the BTC after regaining partial control of the two main bridges linking central Monrovia with Bushrod Island.

where the seaport is located, but just as the troops started marching toward the barracks, a band of fighters loyal to Roosevelt Johnson emerged from the nearby residential (?slum of Slipway) to launch a counterattack on the bridges. Fighting was still raging this afternoon, with the sound of heavy artillery echoing across the city. Hundreds of civilians making their way across one of the bridges were forced to run helter skelter when NPFL and ULIMO-K militiamen opened fire to push back enemy forces from the area.

Meanwhile, NPFL leader, Charles Taylor, called a press conference late this afternoon to announce that neither he nor Alhaji Koromah of ULIMO-K would be travelling to Accra for peace talks. He said they will be represented by Wilton Sankawolo, chairman of the transitional ruling council.

[Announcer] Well inevitably, the fighting in Monrovia has caused a surge of people wanting to get out. Just about the only way is by boat from the port on Bushrod Island. Yesterday, thousands of people crammed into the harbor. Dutch boat owner, Peter Seabock of West Coast Fisheries, who's been ferrying refugees out of the city, has spent a lot of time in the port. Mary Harper asked him what things were like there today.

[Begin recording] [Seabock] Well, I'm just coming from there and at least 5,000 people are waiting to get a place on the ship. There is one ship going to Ghana, I think, and one to Conakry. It's very messy because they try to enter and the boarding is very difficult, but ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] is trying to organize it now, but there is a real pathetic situation — babies, women, and children are trying to get out.

[Harper] So, is ECOMOG actually managing to try to control this crowd in some way or is it just hoping....

[Seabock, interrupting] Yes, yes, yes. They are trying their possible best because in front of the port, there are some other 2,000 people trying to enter [words indistinct] clear it because what's inside [words indistinct] too much for the ships.

[Harper] How many boats are there actually available at the port for these thousands of people?

[Seabock] Well, there are only two right now, but there was another boat yesterday, a Russian [boat] a very old ship, which took more than 1,000 people and it broke down in the port already and the people had slept on the boat the whole night.

[Harper] So, are those 1,000 people on board that Russian boat still languishing there in the port?

[Seabock] Yes, yes, but I just spoke with the ECOMOG commander from the port and he said they will allow them now to come to the dockside, but they had been there the whole night in the water.

[Harper] So I mean, what is the situation at the port? Are people turning nasty? Are they turning violent in their desperation to get onto one of the boats?

[Seabock] No, not at all, not at all. They are very quiet there. Of course there are scared because there are still some sounds in town, once in a while, and they are trying to get on the boat, but I'm sure a lot of them cannot make it because there is no space. [end recording]

#### **Liberia: Taylor Interviewed on Johnson's Departure for Accra Summit**

*AB0305200096 London BBC World Service in English 1830 GMT 3 May 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It has been a terrible week for Monrovia. The fighting between the factions has continued but now the leaders have been leaving the city. Alhaji Koromah went yesterday, this afternoon, Roosevelt Johnson and other leaders were helicoptered out and only Charles Taylor is left, and they are all expected in Accra, Ghana, next week for peace talks, but now, out of the blue, Charles Taylor is claiming that the Americans are out to get him. On the line, Robin White asked Charles Taylor what, according to him, was going on?

[Begin recording] [Taylor] Well, this afternoon, the chairman and vice Chairman Tamba Taylor left on the invitation of President Rawlings. I could not go because of the prevailing security situation in the country. And then I get a call and there are claims made by the United States Government that everybody has fled the country and I am alone to take power by force of arms. So we've all been intrigued. Helicopters are flying over the bridge past us here, everybody, and so there's got to be a blast of fire to kill me because if someone would deliberately lie that the chairman of the Council of State and vice chairman, who were flown out by ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] to a meeting today fled the country, then there's got to be more than we know.

[White] What evidence do you have that anybody is trying to assassinate you?

[Taylor] Well, you know, they have employed very, very serious threats and they have [word indistinct] these regards for the sovereignty of this country, our

Liberian citizens have been trapped dead all at the American Embassy and we've realized that two of them were fleeing civilians and there have been the latest provocations including this issue to be that the chairman has fled when, in fact, he was picked up today by ECOWAS for a meeting this weekend. And so there's got to be all kinds of things going on that one needs to think twice.

[White] But why should the Americans want to assassinate you?

[Taylor] Well, you have to ask them. This is our information. We hope it is not true. We can only state what we hear, whether it is a threat of the use of force, that means that, you know, it will be disastrous. We know what happened to the Chechen leader. We know how these things happen, so one must be very careful.

[White] Now, Roosevelt Johnson seems to have left the country as well.

[Taylor] Well, Roosevelt Johnson, I must admit in all candidness, did not run away. Under an agreement that we all know of, ECOWAS has lifted Johnson. He is on his way to Accra for discussions and we would consider that a surrender and consider this a very welcome development in the calculus toward a decision of hostilities. We welcome the development that he did not flee. He left on his own free will and we hope that this will contribute to a secession of hostilities.

[White] Now, all these other people have left apparently to go for eventual peace talks in Ghana. Will you also go?

[Taylor] I have promised world leaders that I would attend the conference of the heads of state meeting next week. My exact time of departure I will not give. I am on the ground here to make sure that this weekend is under control. The Liberian people are looking up to me and the council for leadership and we are going to continue to provide that leadership. We are not just going to leave the people and run and, you know, what they call in America, and hide tail.

[White] Meanwhile, are you preparing to seize as much of the capital as you can?

[Taylor] Well, we have the capital already. There are few areas around where there are Johnson's people and we are trying to soften them up before finally trying to arrest them. Most of Monrovia is under the government's control and the rest of the country. Our forces now occupy [name indistinct], Grand Jideh County. We are fighting in Greenville. We have taken [name indistinct], we've taken Harbel, and so this fight that was launched by the LPC [Liberian Peace Council]

against the government has led to most of these areas being softened to deter the ability to continue to make war.

[White] Are you preparing to declare yourself president of Liberia?

[Taylor] Never! Never! I want to be an elected president. I am only aware, Robin, that if anyone takes power in Liberia by force of arms, he will not get the support of the Western community. The international community will isolate that person and I would want to go to the ballotbox for the Liberian people to freely elect me and to get international support. I will do nothing short of taking full mandate from the people to be backed by the international community for the process of reconstruction. [end recording]

## Niger

### Niger: Foreign Minister Resigns for 'Personal' Reasons

AB0605084696 Paris AFP in English  
0213 GMT 6 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Niamey, 6 May (AFP) — Niger Foreign Minister Mohamed Bazoum stepped down Sunday [5 May] for personal reasons, the ruling military junta announced. He was replaced by higher education and research minister Andre Salifou, whose former post was given to a new entrant to the cabinet, Hamidou Harouna Sidikou.

Government spokesman Inoussa Ousseini told state television that Bazoum wanted to become more involved in politics ahead of promised elections. The junta also announced the formation of a new ministry, for social development, population, women and children, to be headed by Mariama Hima.

### Niger: CSN Chairman Carries Out 'Technical' Cabinet Reshuffle

AB0605100496 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network  
in French 0545 GMT 6 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel Ibrahim Barre Mainassara, National Salvation Council [CSN] chairman, signed a decree yesterday on a technical cabinet reshuffle. Here is the composition of the new Transitional Government given by Inoussa Ousseini, minister of communications, culture, youth and sports and government spokesman:

[Begin Ousseini recording] Under the decree, the composition of the Government of the Niger Republic, that is the transitional government, is as follows:

Head of state, chairman of the CSN and of the Council of Ministers	Mainassara, Ibrahim Barre, Col.
Prime Minister	Adji, Boukari
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs	Salifou, Andre
Minister of Finance and Planning	Soumaila, Almoustapha
Minister Delegate in charge of National Defense	Doby, Mahamane
Minister of Rural Development, Water Resources, and Environment	Mahamane, Brah
Minister of National Education	Aissata, Moumouni
Minister of Trade, Crafts, Transport, and Tourism	Nignon, Jacques
Minister of Justice and Human Rights, Keeper of the Seals	Oumarou, Boube
Minister of Communications, Culture, Youth, and Sports; Government Spokesman	Ousseini, Inoussa
Minister of Mining, Industry, and Technology	Boukar, Mai Manga
Minister of Interior and Territorial Administration	Omar, Idi Ango
Minister of Public Health	Moussa, Aloua, Dr.
Minister of Public Service, Labor, and Employment	Gado, Seini Ali
Minister of Equipment and Infrastructure	Chako, Cherif
Minister of Social Development, Population, Women and Children	Hima, Mariama
Minister of Higher Education and Research	Sidoukou, Hamidou Harouna, Prof.
Secretary of State for Budget	Koussou, Ibrahim
Secretary of State for Interior	Abdoulmoumine, Attaher

That was the report on the technical cabinet reshuffle. To meet the Niger citizens' strong desire for information, I will say that this technical reshuffle was essentially prompted by the fact that a number of personalities have asked to leave the government for certain reasons. Those personalities decided to get further involved in the activities of their political parties. The head of state has, therefore, accepted their resignation. [end recording]

### Niger: Mainassara Announces Decision To Run for President

AB0305131396 Paris AFP in French  
1001 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Dakar, 3 May (AFP) — Colonel Ibrahim Barre Mainassara, head of the ruling military junta in Niger since 27 January, has announced that he will contest the presidential election scheduled for 7 and 28 July.

In an interview granted to the Dakar daily, LE SOLEIL, he stated that he will run as an "independent candidate" in order "to be a unifier." "We must not delude ourselves. Anyone who presents himself under the banner of a party will automatically be opposed as in the past," he explained to justify his strategy.

Col. Mainassara, 47-years-old, again justified the coup d'etat which brought him to power by the persisting "blockage" resulting from a conflict at the top of the state (between the president of the Republic and the prime minister). For him, "even if the coup d'etat was not the best solution, it was the least evil."

### Nigeria

#### Nigeria: Foreign Ministry Refutes Media Reports on Hizballah Base

AB0405144596 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network  
in English 0600 GMT 4 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The federal government has refuted media reports that there is a training base for the Hizballah group in Nigeria. A statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Abuja says there is also no truth in the allegation that Israel had protested to Nigeria on the issue.

It described the allegation as false and malicious. The statement adds that the Nigerian ambassador in Tel Aviv had met with officials of the Israeli foreign ministry. The two sides agreed that there is no Hizballah base in Nigeria.

#### Nigeria: Government Pledges 'Action' Against Cameroon Over Bakassi

AB0305155596 Paris AFP in English  
1517 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lagos, 3 May (AFP) — Nigeria on Friday [3 May] pledged to take "all necessary action" in the face of attacks by Cameroon forces against Nigerian soldiers stationed on the disputed Bakassi peninsula.

ving the first official indication that Nigeria may respond to alleged Cameroonian attacks, Defence Headquarters

treatened the action in a statement signed by Defence Spokesman General Fred Chijuka.

The statement, a copy of which was given to AFP, said attacks by Cameroon forces against Nigerian troops on [the] peninsula has "continued unabated". It did not say if the attacks in the past one week had caused casualties.

In what appears to be heightening tension over the peninsula, where both countries, have stationed troops since January 1994, Cameroon's charge d'affaires in Nigeria was summoned Thursday in Abuja to discuss the situation. The territory of 1,000 square kilometers (400 square miles) is located in the Gulf of Guinea, which is rich in oil and fish.

Earlier Thursday, Nigerian officials accused Cameroon of continuing its attacks on the disputed territory but said the Army had been ordered not to counter-attack for the time being.

**Nigeria: Foreign Ministry Officials Meet With Cameroonian Envoy**

*AB0305163296 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1500 GMT 3 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Defense Headquarters has emphasized that Nigeria is duty bound to protect its territory and will take necessary steps in that direction. The warning was issued in a statement in Lagos today by the director of defense information Brigadier General Fred Chijuka. He said that the vicious attack launched against Nigerian troops by Cameroonian soldiers in the past one week had continued.

The defense spokesman said that Nigerian positions had been under bombardment with heavy artillery in addition to attack by helicopters and gunboats. Brig. Gen. Chijuka stated that Cameroon had reinforced since the unfavorable decision against it at the International Court of Justice.

Still in the Bakassi peninsula, Nigeria has reiterated its determination to maintain good relations with its neighbors. The director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Djibrin Dada Chinade, stated this today in Abuja after a meeting with the charge d'affaires of the Cameroonian Embassy, Mr. (Prosper Fomba Ngom). Ernest Tetejika now reports.

[Begin Tetejika recording] The discussions centered mainly on latest developments on the Bakassi peninsula. Ambassador Chinade protested that Nigeria was not happy about the acts of aggression going on on the peninsula. He said Cameroonians and Nigerians were brothers and sisters who should not fight, but instead engage in dialogue and peaceful negotiations to resolve the dispute. The director general recalled that the

Nigerian foreign policy was to live in peace with its neighbors, stressing that Nigeria has upheld this principle to the utmost level of its ability. Ambassador Chinade said that the decision to resolve the Bakassi issue through the International Court of Justice was due to mutual understanding existing between the two countries. He recalled the [word indistinct] meeting where positive agreements were reached and wondered why Cameroon could not abide by the agreement.

The director general, however, warned that Nigeria would not watch the continued violation of that agreement. It said that what Nigeria and Cameroon needed now was peace [words indistinct] and called on the international community to prevail on Cameroon to maintain peace in the peninsula.

In his remark, the Cameroonian charge d'affaires, (Prosper Ngom), promised to convey the message to his country. He reiterated the commitment of his country to [word indistinct] the rule of law and peaceful negotiations toward the resolution of the dispute. The meeting which lasted for one hand half hours was at the instance of Nigeria. [end recording]

**Nigeria: Foreign Minister Ikimi Interview on Liberian Crisis**

*AB0505192596 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 5 May 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] This week's ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] summit in Accra will be the first full-scale meeting on the Liberian crisis since the fighting broke out in Monrovia a month ago. The last summit held in Abuja in August ended with the signing of a peace accord, but this time, two of the key players, Charles Taylor and Alhaji Koromah, will not be there. Nigeria's Foreign Minister Tom Ikimi is in Lagos on his way to Accra. Our reporter Hillary Anderson put it to him that it was not much point in having the meeting without them.

[Begin recording] [Ikimi] This meeting was originally slated for Accra, not because of this crisis, but because the Committee of Nine that is responsible for dealing with this matter on behalf of ECOWAS, had to meet anyway when we discovered that, you know, the situation in Liberia was deteriorating. So, whether the faction leaders are there or not there, the leaders of the subregion in the committee at summit level, need to meet anyway and if the faction leaders were not there, perhaps that would have been one issue we should address also at that meeting.

[Anderson] If the talks do go ahead, what will Nigeria be pushing for. Will you be trying to persuade the other faction leaders to try to reincorporate Roosevelt Johnson?

[Ikimi] There is no question about Roosevelt Johnson. Nigeria still believes that the best solution so far is the Abuja accord which was signed last year. As I am aware, Roosevelt Johnson was not a member of the Council of State and the fact that, you know, this breakdown of law and order has taken place in Liberia, does not give him a position in that Council of State either.

[Anderson] You seem to be taking a fairly firm line on Roosevelt Johnson's position. Why has not ECOMOG [ECOWAS Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] gone in and tried to enforce more enthusiastically the (?sovereign) decision?

[Ikimi] So far, ECOMOG has been a peacekeeping force. ECOMOG was not a peace-enforcement force and ECOMOG is not operating on behalf of any faction for any faction. [end recording]

#### **Nigeria: Rights Groups Condemn Attack on Opposition Leader's House**

AB0305141896 Paris AFP in English  
1308 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lagos, 3 May (AFP) — Opposition and human rights groups hit out Friday [3 May] at an arson attack earlier this week on the Lagos residence of a prominent opposition leader in exile.

The coalition of opposition groups in Nigeria, Campaign for Democracy (CD), condemned the attack, carried out Wednesday on the house of General Alani Akinrinade, a former head of the Nigerian Army and now an opponent of the military regime in Nigeria.

The group issued a statement denouncing the "barbarism and cowardice" of the attack, adding that no amount of "violence, intimidation, harassment and persecution" can stop what it described as the "forces of democracy" in Nigeria.

An unidentified group threw petrol bombs at the house on Wednesday, destroying furniture and appliances in the building, Akinrinade's family said. Police have not commented on the incident, though some officers visited the scene of the arson attack on Wednesday.

The National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) also condemned what it described as an "escalating spate

of violence, organised terrorism and insecurity that has engulfed the entire society."

The Committee for the Defence of Human Rights, a Lagos-based human rights organisation, described the attack meanwhile as "crude and cowardly".

General Akinrinade, a leader of the National Democratic Coalition (NADECO), an umbrella for opposition groups in Nigeria, fled the country in 1994 when the military launched a crackdown on members of the opposition. He earlier served as Army chief of staff, and held various ministerial portfolios between 1985 and 1989 under the regime of General Ibrahim Babangida.

#### **Sierra Leone**

##### **Sierra Leone: 9 Killed in 'Serious' Cease-Fire Violation**

AB0405174796 London BBC World Service  
in English 1705 GMT 4 May 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There are reports of a serious violation of the cease-fire between the government in Sierra Leone and RUF [Revolutionary United Front] rebels. There has been trouble before in the north of the country. Now, it seems rebels are active again in the south, attacking the town of Sumbuya, 32 miles south of the main town of Bo. Tom Dawarachi Margai of the SIERRA LEONE NEWS AGENCY reports:

[Begin Margai recording] At least nine people have been confirmed killed and several others wounded when rebels of the Revolutionary United Front this week launched a full scale attack on Sumbuya town in the south of the country. An unspecified number of civilians, including children, were also drowned. According to reports, the rebels, who were all dressed in new military fatigues, attacked the town from all land routes leaving a large river as the only escape route for civilians. The early morning attack, which started with sporadic firing and heavy bombardment, initially left civilians and even the military in total disarray. Earlier reports indicated that an anti-aircraft machine gun was captured from soldiers by the rebels but this was refuted by the army. Hundreds of civilians who were unable to cross the river were rescued by local hunters who formed part of the security forces for the protection of villages and towns in the southern region. [end recording]

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